

# JOHN

**Dr. Charles A. Siler & Basketball at KU by  
Carolyn Siler**

**Jacob Peck, 116th Regiment, Illinois a story of  
success and tragedy**

**The story of the Rochester Chapter SAR's  
Bronze Plaque by Stephen Clarke**

**A Christmas Fishing Story by Lew Holloway**

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## Welcome to JOHN

Looking back on 2019, it was a good year. As we look forward to 2020, we wish all of you a very Happy New Year.

This issue is truly exciting with submissions by our readers. A special thanks to Carolyn Siler, Lew Hollway and Stephen Clarke, they make this issue so interesting from my point of view, sure hope you agree. JAH

Carolyn Siler's story of her Grandparent, DR. Charlie A. Siler continues with his basketball history, when he played on a KU team coached by the inventor of basketball, Dr. James Naismith.

Christine, again provides us with a story of success and then tragedy. Jacob Peck, who served and survived with the 116th Regiment from Illinois, during the Civil War. Back home, Jacob was to meet a tragic end. Christine and I had a chance to visit the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park in Georgia during our Christmas visit to family in Ball Ground, GA.

I was pleased that Stephen Clarke alerted me to THE STORY OF THE ROCHESTER CHAPTER SAR'S BRONZE PLAQUE. The Rochester Sons of the American Revolution has just celebrated 125 years of service. The Bronze Plaque's travels through the years makes for a great story.

I was pleased to see that Lew Hollway continues to write stories. He has shared several with me in the last few months. All are interesting and I hope that you will enjoy his Christmas story in this issue.

This issue of JOHN is the 18th issue over three years. I have on occasion been asked to provide back issues. I do not have the space on my website to archive all the issues. I decided to use the Internet service, ***archive.org*** to upload all the issues to their site. This makes all the issues available at anytime, with no cost to you. I have included directions on how to get to all the JOHN issues. It is not a tricky process, so give it a try if you are interested. Thanks. JAH



What I knew about my grandparents when I was growing up, is likely similar to what most would know of their grandparents thru the eyes of a child.....

Grandma cooked, baked, knit, sewed...Grandpa told stories, listened to ours and both loved to spend time with family. But, thru the years I learned so much more.....



Carolyn Siler

This Dr. Charles A. Siler intro was written by Don Faust....son-in-law of CAS. Uncle Don, to me, organized notes, photos, personal information and created 100's of pages of Siler History.

In 1903 CAS went to the University of Kansas, in Lawrence, Kansas, where he studied in a program involving four years in basic sciences leading to a B.A.

In 1905, Charles switched his major to Medicine.  
He received his BA in June of 1908.

While at Kansas, he joined a group who were interested in foreign missionary work. E. T. Colton, of the International Committee of the YMCA, came to Kansas University to recruit students who might serve as YMCA-secretaries in foreign countries. Charles met with Colton. Colton suggested that, when Charles had his degree, he should go to China under the auspices of the YMCA.

Charles played basketball (he was a first string center 1905-06) at K.U. Jayhawks, and the coach was Dr. James Naismith. The same Naismith who invented the game of basketball when he (Naismith) was at the Y.M.C.A. Training School, in Springfield, Mass. [See article by Naismith.]

*[Dear reader, you must understand that, in 1904-08, basketball was in its early developmental stages. Dr. James Naismith had recently invented the game so that rough and tumble YMCA Secretaries in training could compete without injuring each other. When one player touched another, there was a foul on one of the players or both. The rules of today, no blood no foul, steps, carrying the ball while dribbling, setting screens that sound like a guard in football clearing out on an end run, would bewilder and raise Naismith's dander.*

*In those days, Kansas did not play North Carolina, UCLA, or Duke. I don't know about North Carolina or Duke but UCLA's first season was 1919-1920. That season, UCLA played Manual Arts HS, Hollywood HS, Throp and Pomona among others. UCLA played Pomona twice, each winning one. I am sure that there were not many teams available to Kansas.]*

## BIOGRAPHY of Charles A. Siler

Charles Arthur Siler was born October 3, 1883 in Sarcxie township, Jefferson County, Kansas. He was a middle son of Augustus Charles and Elizabeth (Snite) Siler, whose other children included Edward Henry, Frank William, Cora, Lillie Agnes, Nora Emma, and George Albert.



Siler attended the University of Kansas, earning a BA and medicine degree before further pursuing a degree in Physical Education through the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) in 1912. Siler attended KU while James Naismith was there and, with his interest in sports, became involved in the early days of basketball, playing with Phog Allen himself. Siler took an intensive two-year language training course in Chinese after arriving in China to work with the YMCA Ministry. He traveled to many cities, teaching classes and basketball/refereeing during his time in the country.

In 1912, Siler met and started corresponding with Marion Louise Pierce, who had been born in 1888 in Chicago, IL, before he left for China. After she graduated in 1916 from Rush Medical School, she traveled to Japan to meet Siler. They married there in June 1916. Their first two children, George Bensley and Marion Louise, were born in China, after which in 1919 the Silers returned to the United States for their children's education, while living in Chicago. They had Charles Abbott in Chicago, and their last two children, David and Margaret, were born in China after the family returned in 1922.

After returning to China, Charles Siler opened his own medical practice and played on the civilian basketball league team from 1922 to 1928. The family returned to the United States in 1928 and took up residence in Oak Park, Illinois.





Charles A. Siler really had an interesting life and accomplished so much. It is good to see that the family has retained many of his personal papers and made them accessible to future generations. With so many aspects of the man, I have decided to focus on his sports career at KU. Also including some other career highlights of interest to finish the story of Dr. Siler, which by any manner only begins to capture all his life story. JAH

## **University of Kansas Libraries Kenneth Spencer Research Library**

### **Guide to the Charles A. Siler Collection**

#### **Personal papers of Charles A. Siler**

#### **COLLECTION SUMMARY**

**Creator:** Siler, Charles Arthur

**Title:** Personal papers of Charles A. Siler

**Dates:** 1890-1982

**Quantity:** 1.5 linear feet (2 boxes + 2  
oversize boxes)

**Abstract:** This collection contains family photo albums, notes and journals from Charles Siler's time in China, and memorabilia from his time playing basketball for James Naismith at the University of Kansas, as well as other Siler family memorabilia. A number of color photographic slides are part of the collection, displaying Siler's travels to China as part of the YMCA Missionary.

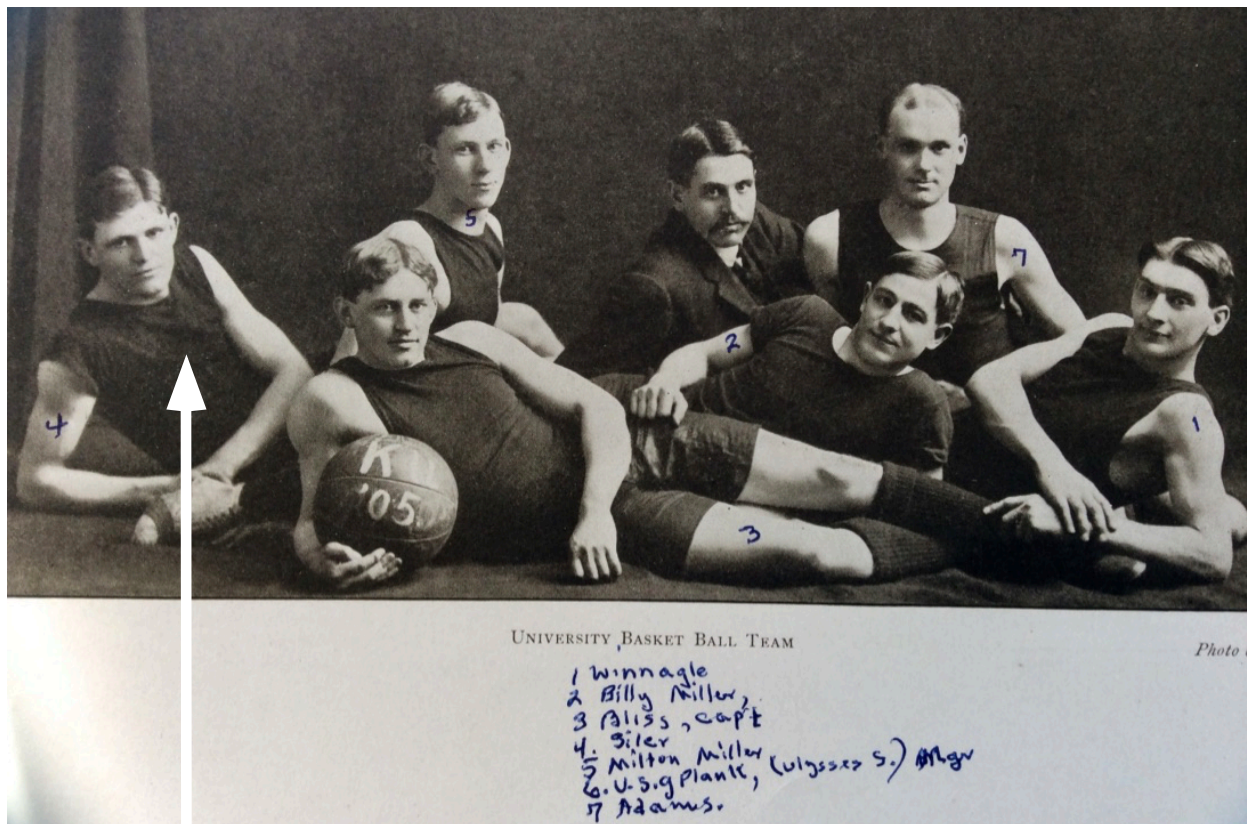
**Language:** English

**Call Number:** PP 595



**Don't you just love this  
photo of a true traveling  
man.**

While at Kansas University, Charles played basketball (he was a first string center, 1905-06) at the Kanas University and the coach was Dr. James Naismith. The same Naismith who invented the game of basketball when the he (Dr.Naismith) was at the Y.M.C.A. Training School, in Springfield Mass.



Arrow shows Charles Siler who played center on the team. Other members: 1- Winnagle, 2- Billy Miller, 3- Bliss, capt. 5-Miller, Miller, 6-Ulysses S. Plante, Mgr. and 7-Forest Allen.

### 1905–06 Kansas Jayhawks men's basketball

**Conference**

Independent

**1905–06 record**

12–7

**Head coach James Naismith**



Basketball--A Game The World Plays  
James Naismith  
Originator of the Game of Basketball

Reprinted from the Rotarian for January 1939

In 1936, at the Olympics in Berlin, Germany, I saw the basketball teams of 21 nations line up, each behind the flag of its own country, and I had the privilege of speaking a few words of greeting, and of congratulating them on the part they were about to have in promoting international goodwill.

As I talked to those superb athletes from all quarters of the globe, I realized that the game I had invented back at the Springfield Massachusetts, Y.M.C.A. College almost 45 years before had had a fine part in the development of better international understanding. I was more convinced of the good effects of the game when the accident of the draw paired China and Japan for a first-day game - with the memories of Manchukuo still vivid. And a Chinese refereed the final game of the series, between the United States and Canada. If added evidence were needed, it could have been found in the dinner attended by 19 alumni of the Springfield College, men of many nationalities and all from the coaching staffs of the basketball teams at the Olympic games.

It was indeed fortunate for the game that it was devised at the Y.M.C.A. College, for this insured its early and widespread adoption. The prospective leaders of youth, in school at Springfield, found the game interesting, and they took it with them as they spread to their tasks as Y.M.C.A. secretaries throughout the United States, or became missionaries in other lands. Bob Gailey, who had been a center on the Princeton University football team, took the new game with him to Tientsin, China, in 1894, and **Charles Siler, a University of Kansas graduate of 1916, revived the game there.** Duncan Patton took the game to India, also in 1894; Emil Thies to France in 1895; Ishakawa to Japan in 1900. C. Harek, another "Y" man introduced the game into Persia (now Iran) in 1901. American soldiers played it in China during the Boxer rebellion, and in The Philippines when the 20th Kansas Regiment was there under Fred Funston. For many years a Far East tournament brought together the best basketball players of China, Japan, and The Philippines.





Dr. Charles A. Siler, 88, of 524 Forest Av., Oak Park, died yesterday in West Suburban Hospital, Oak Park.

Dr. Siler retired in 1967 after practicing since 1928 in Oak Park. He had offices at 715 Lake St., in the suburb.

### **Inspects POW Camps**

During World War II, the doctor served as health commissioner of Oak Park. In 1915, during World War I, Dr. Siler was sent by the Red Cross to Siberia to inspect prisoner of war camps. The visits by Dr. Siler were to determine how the Russians were spending the money given to them by the American Red Cross.

The American Board of Foreign Missions of the Congregational Church sent Dr. Siler to China in the 1920s. He began his medical practice in Tien Tsin in 1923 where he stayed for five years. Tien Tsin is near Peking.

(posted on Find-A-Grave by Sherri C. Anderson).



The doctor is survived by his widow, Marion P.; three sons, Dr. George, Charles, and David; two daughters, Marion and Mrs. Margaret Faust; six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Memorial services will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday in the First Congregational Church, Lake Street and Kenilworth Avenue, Oak Park.

Obituary published in The Chicago Tribune (Chicago, IL), on Thursday, February 24, 1972,



## 116th Illinois Infantry, Jacob Peck, Company "A"

The Regiment, with the noble and brave Colonel Nathan W. Tupper in command, went into Camp Macon near Decatur, and was mustered into United States service September 30, 1862 by Captain Wainwright of the regular army. The Regiment remained in Camp Macon until November 8th, when it was ordered to Memphis via Cairo to join General W. T. Sherman's Fifteenth Army Corps, and was assigned to the First Brigade, Second Division. From Memphis the Regiment marched to the Tallahatchie River, reaching it on December 13; returned to Memphis and started down the Mississippi on the 20th, and on the 26th reached the Yazoo River and ascended it 15 miles. During the following three days the Regiment received its first baptism of fire, engaging in the battle of Chickasaw Bayou, the officers and men fighting so gallantly as to receive the highest compliments from the veterans of the older regiments in the Brigade. General Morgan L. Smith was wounded in this engagement.

On January 1, 1863, passed down the Yazoo to the Mississippi River, and up that and the Arkansas River to Arkansas Post, where on the 10th and 11th of January it fought its second battle, sustaining very heavy losses. Here Captain Lewis Eyman, of Company E, and Lieutenant John S. Taylor, of Company B, were killed. The casualties in Company B were particularly severe, the company coming out of the battle with but 25 men, in command of Fifth Sergeant, afterward Lieutenant and Captain Christian Riebsame.

In the month of March the One Hundred and Sixteenth went up the Black Bayou and Deer Creek in company with the Eighth Missouri, to save Admiral Porter's fleet and gunboats worth \$3,000,000 from the clutches of the rebels which was done after a hard fight, General Sherman in person and on foot with his own Regiment, the Thirteenth Regulars, coming up at a critical moment to assist in accomplishing the object. The Regiment engaged in the battles of Champion Hills and Black River Bridge and in the bloody charges on May 18th and 22nd and lost very heavily.

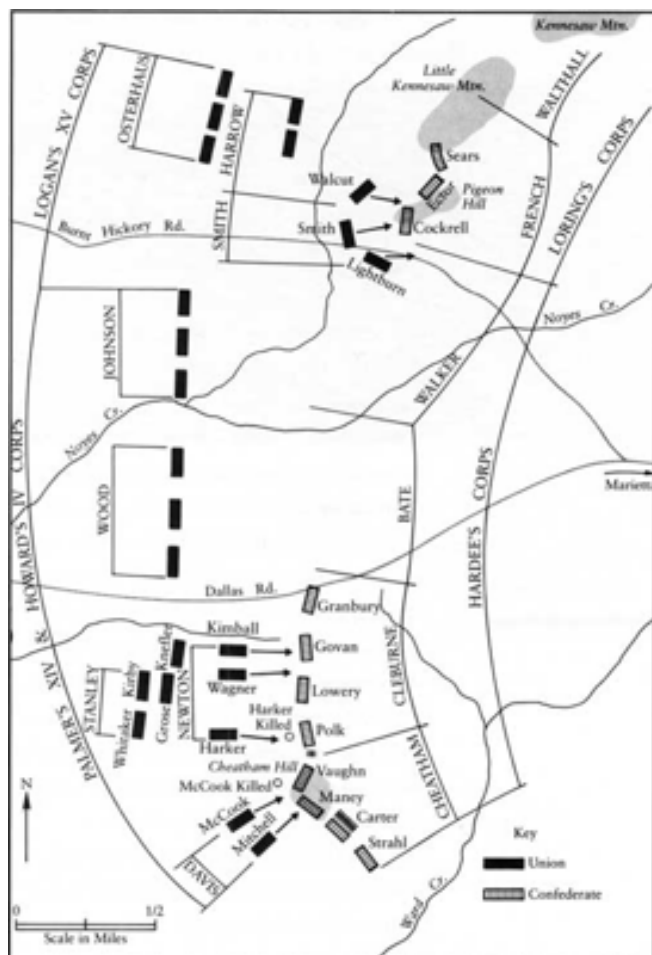


Then followed the long siege of Vicksburg which ended by the surrender of that stronghold on the 4th of July.

After the victory of Chattanooga, and without being permitted to return to camp across the Tennessee for blankets or overcoats, the One Hundred and Sixteenth, with other of Sherman's Army, was hurried forward to Knoxville to the relief of Burnside. The winter was a very cold one, and while the boys could keep warm marching twenty-five to thirty miles during the days, they suffered greatly while camping at night. They would build big fires and hug them close, but the other side would be chilled to the marrow of the bone; rations, also were very short, and when at last the Regiment went into winter quarters on January 9, 1864, at Larkinsville, Ala., the men all felt that they have been on the hardest campaign during their service.

In May, the One Hundred and Sixteenth, with the rest of the Army of the Tennessee,

moved against the enemy, and found him at Resaca, GA., when, on the 14th of May, the Regiment was hotly engaged, losing heavily, but driving the enemy across the creek, and planting their colors upon the rebel works. The One Hundred and Sixteenth was repeatedly attacked, but could not be driven from the position gained. Then followed in quick succession the battles of Dallas, **Big Shanty** and **Kenesaw Mountain**. Captain Thomas White, of Company C, commanding the Regiment, was killed on the skirmish line May 26, at Dallas, and Captain James N. Glore, Company K, was wounded about the same time. The Regiment lost heavily on June 27, 1864, in the assault on **Kenesaw Mountain**. The 116th fought in the battle of Atlanta, July 22. After the fall of Atlanta, and when Hood started for General Sherman's rear, the One Hundred and Sixteenth assisted in the pursuit of the enemy as far as Gadston, when, leaving the rebels to the care of General Thomas, marched back to Atlanta,



and on the 15th day of November went with Uncle Sherman from Atlanta to the Sea, arriving at Fort McAllister, GA., near Savannah, December 12.

The next day, December 13, General W. B. Hazen, commanding Division, selected nine regiments, including the One Hundred and Sixteenth, to carry the fort, and within five minutes after the sound of the bugle "Forward" the Regimental colors were on the works and the garrison captured.

The history of the One Hundred and Sixteenth Infantry is identical with that of the Army of the Tennessee from Memphis, 1862, to Washington, 1865. It was never on detached service, but always with the moving column.



## Jacob Peck

Jacob Peck was a member of the 116th Regiment, Illinois. He mustered out from Decatur for the front on November 6, 1862. The esprit de corps of the Regiment, under the command of Colonel Tupper was splendid. The Regiment signed up for and served three years. After the fall of Atlanta, the Regiment started for Washington via Raleigh, Richmond and Alexandria, participating in the grand review before the President in May 1865, being finally mustered out near Washington on June 7, 1865.

Jacob Peck served with the Regiment through the campaign, even though he was wounded at the Battle of Vicksburg. He returned to Platt County Illinois and began farming on his farm of 80 acres. He would marry, Amanda Peck Goodwin and they had five children.

### Jacob Peck - Killed by Lightning

This morning at 2 o'clock (17 Aug 1886), while the storm was raging furiously in and about La Place, Jacob Peck, a well known farmer, was instantly killed by lightning in his dwelling, one mile north of the village. The rain was coming down in torrents and the water was coming down the chimney. Mr. Peck arose to repair the chimney from the inside. Lightning



struck the chimney, and Mr. Peck was instantly killed. The house was badly damaged and the inmates were severely shocked. Mr. Peck was aged about 45 years, and leaves a widow and five children. He was a member of the 116th Regiment, and the owner of a farm of 80 acres.

The funeral of Jacob Peck took place Wednesday forenoon at Cerro Gordo. The remains were interred with the honors of war by Cerro Gordo Post No. 210, G.A.R.

LATER - Further particulars are to the effect that Mrs. Peck lies at the point of death, her limbs from the hips down having been paralyzed by the lightning shock, she did not die and did recover from the lightning shock injuries.

### ***THE STORY OF THE ROCHESTER CHAPTER SAR'S BRONZE PLAQUE***

On a sunny late summer afternoon, to celebrate Constitution Day on September 17th 1919, the members of the Rochester Chapter of the National Society, Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) gathered on a patriotically decorated platform at the north end of the small triangular park called Convention Park at the intersection of Monroe and Clinton Avenues in the southeast part of Rochester adjacent to the Convention Center, now GEVA Theater. The Rochester Chapter archives contain the original program, which reveals the following:

Dedication of Monument  
Commemorative of  
The Completion of the Constitution  
of the United States  
of America  
September 17th, 1787  
at Convention Hall Triangle  
September 17th 1919 at 4:30 P. M.  
Under the auspices of  
Rochester Chapter Sons of the American Revolution

Program  
Music.....Star Spangled Banner  
Address.....President of the Rochester Chapter  
*George B. Sage*  
Dedication.....Rev. C. Waldo Cherry, D D  
Presentation.....*Hon H. F. Remington*  
President Empire State Society S.A.R.  
Acceptance.....On behalf of Mayor H H. Edgerton  
*Hon. Charles E. Ogden*  
Song.....America  
Benediction

The date and event are special in that they observed the 132nd anniversary of the completion and signing of the Constitution of the United States on 17 September 1787 and the 25th anniversary of the founding on 4 July 1894 of the Rochester Chapter, SAR. The September date was chosen to provide an opportunity for the Chapter to demonstrate their patriotic attitude and to present a noteworthy gift to the City of Rochester in honor of their quarter century of service to the community. The SAR encouraged the city fathers to change the name of the little park, known as either Triangle Park or Convention Hall Triangle, to Constitution Park, but the fathers did not act on that suggestion so Convention Hall Triangle remained the home of the plaque for 52 years.



The plaque as it was found after having been washed off. It was otherwise unchanged from how it was found as it seemed appropriate to the Chapter to have it seen as it had weathered.



A few years after the plaque was installed, a small white house was moved from Washington Square, a short distance away, to Convention Hall Park where it became the office of the Rochester Convention and Visitors' Bureau. Both the plaque and the little house remained there until April 1971 when work on the final section of the Inner Loop was started and the area from South Clinton Avenue east and bounded generally by Chestnut St., Court St., East Broad St., South Union Street and the Inner Loop was razed. The area is now home primarily to the ESL Federal Credit Union headquarters, the Strong Museum of Play and the Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Park. The little Convention Hall Triangle occupied a place that is now underneath the corner of a parking garage at the southeast corner of Woodbury Blvd. and South Clinton Avenue.

During the demolition of the buildings in the Inner Loop construction area, the little white house was razed; the boulder with the plaque was removed and was lost in the confusion of construction. What precisely happened to it in 1971 is not known. However, 47 years later the plaque was returned to the Rochester SAR by Mr. Charlie Wu and Mr. Walter Winner at the 21 March 2018 meeting of the Chapter's Board of Managers and the story is rather remarkable. Charlie Wu works in demolition and in 2012 was assigned to raze a house at 1080 Erie Station Road at the intersection with Middle Road in Rush, NY where he found the bronze plaque in the dirt floor cellar, face down, covering a sump hole. Seeing something that looked possibly salvageable, he took the plaque home after the building was leveled; the lot remains vacant today (2019). Charlie and Walter are friends and Charlie knew of Walter's fascination with unusual items. The plaque was certainly one of the more unusual things Charlie gave Walter and it caught his interest. He then spent odd moments over the next six years trying to find out what he could about the SAR so he could return the plaque to the Chapter. As mentioned, that happened on 21 March 2018 when he introduced himself at the regular meeting after he discovered the meetings were held only a short distance from his home and a mile and a half from where the plaque was found. Since that time, Walter on his own did additional research and learned that the home Charlie razed was owned by a Mr. and Mrs. Richard Knapp who bought the place in 1970 or 1971 and he further learned from neighbors that there had been no bronze plaque in the cellar when the Knapps bought the house. The remarkable and curious thing is that Mr. Knapp was a truck driver for a construction firm working on the Inner Loop project. A reasonable assumption is that he was involved in the clearing of all the real estate in the Southeast Inner Loop construction zone, somehow obtained the plaque and decided it would be a useful cover for the cellar sump in his home. However it got to 1080 Erie Station Road, it remained there until it was once again found as it was lost as part of a demolition project.

On 17 September 2019 at 4:30 in the afternoon, precisely 100 years to the hour after it was originally presented to the City of Rochester and dedicated on that sunny day, the plaque was returned to public display in the Local History and Genealogy Division of the Rochester Public Library.

The Rochester Chapter, SAR, is proud and delighted to be able to make this presentation through the careful work and attention of Mr. Wu and Mr. Winner, and is deeply grateful to the City of Rochester, Christine Ridarsky, City Historian, and Patricia Uttaro, Director of the Rochester Public Library System. SPC



I first met Stephen Clarke and his wife Mary at a book signing event in Rochester, NY several years ago. Since Mary and I have ancestor ties, it was with great interest when I found out the Stephen was working on the Hawley family. He shared with me some work in progress and we stayed connected. He has completed his work and it is quite impressive, even for someone without Hawley ties. More information is on the next page of this issue.

Please email me for information on how to get a copy.

In this issue, Stephen shares with us the story of the Rochester Chapter SAR's Bronze Plaque. The Plaque's history is quite a story and was a timely find as the Rochester Chapter SAR was celebrating 125 years of service to the community. On a side note, Mr. Clarke appears to be humble about his accomplishments. He is a Past President of the Rochester Chapter SAR and helped organize the Thousand Island Chapter SAR in the Watertown, NY area. JAH



Stephan P. Clarke

Steve is the author of several books including four genealogies. He is a member of the Rochester, NY, Genealogical Society and several lineage societies.





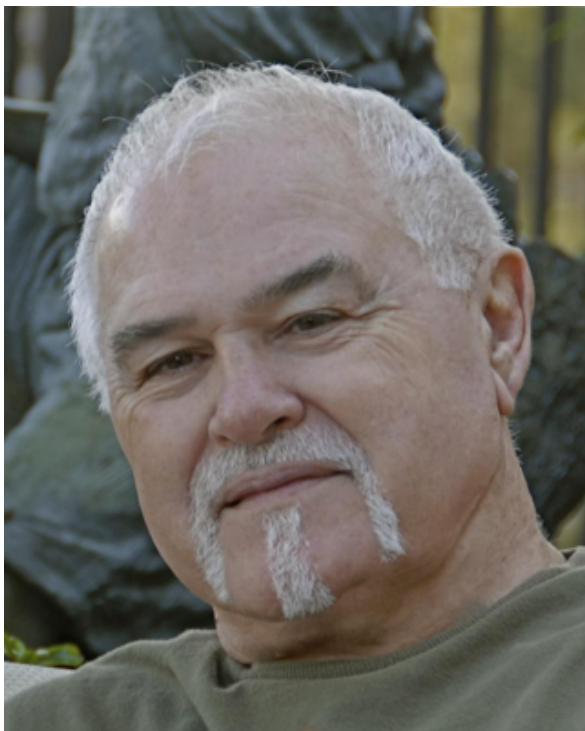
## From the introduction by Stephen P. Clarke

My work in family history research for my wife's lineage promised to be relatively easy. After all, there were lots of family records, photographs and other data along with a 16-page single-spaced typescript done by a Hawley cousin, Ethel Tozier, in the early 1950s. Mrs. Tozier did a superb job given the constraints of the times and my work was off to a solid start.

However, it soon became obvious that there was a great deal to do. This book is the result of about 25 years of research to expand on and develop that beginning. I am pleased to be able to share my work regarding my wife's paternal line, Hawley, Holley, Holly and related families. They are among the most important developers and innovators in the 19th Century America, but most Americans have never heard of them.

They contributed greatly to the growth of America as an industrial power and to the westward migration of the 1800s and were leaders in the abolitionist and suffrage movements as well. A primary goal of any genealogical research is to prepare data in the hope that those who read it will learn new bits of history or some of those curious things that illustrate our county's development. That is the goal of this work, too, and if it does not observe standard genealogical organizational practices that is because it is intended as much a family history as a traditional genealogy and it was prepared accordingly. SPC





## Biography for Lew Holloway

I grew up in a small coal-mining town of Erie, Colorado.

My mother was a single woman raising two boys. Life was difficult for our family, but we always had a clean home with ample food to eat.

Coal mining towns were rough places to live. Most men were uneducated, confrontational and drank heavily.

Growing up under these conditions shaped my life as an assertive, self-reliant individual. I spent my elementary and middle school years in Erie.

I attended high school in the nearby town of Lafayette, Colorado. Thanks to wrestling and football achievements an athletic scholarship allowed me to attend a small college in Southern Colorado.

Following college (1960) I was drafted into the Army and later reenlisted for a choice in training. I became a member of the US Army Special Forces. My first assignment was in Germany, and a short time later I was dispatched to Vietnam. I served as a sergeant in a reconnaissance group operating on Vietnamese, Cambodian, and Laotian borders. After military service I began working in the food service industry and several years later the grocery business. After 40 years in distribution industry, I retired from corporate management. LH



# A CHRISTMAS FISHING STORY

Lew Holloway



This story started a few weeks before Christmas during the holiday season. We were living with our grandparents in the small coal-mining town of Erie, Colorado. (This story can also be considered a fishing story, no water, no fishing pole, and no fish.) The time was December of 1942. Christmas was just around the corner, the excitement was well at hand. My

brother, a few years older, and I both knew if we were destructive and troublesome that Santa would pass us by on that up and coming electrifying night of all nights. We had several broken toys that had been abused from hard play. From time to time, grandfather repaired our toys when he could. Grandfather was ingenious, resourceful and creative. He soldered, painted, and robed parts from other broken-down playthings. The Second World War had restructured daily life, especially manufacturing. The war years were upon us, and most our metal toys were several years old and just worn out. Due to the war effort, metal toys were not being manufactured. Because of these hard times, many of our toy trucks/cars had the wrong size wheels and smashed in parts. I guess you could say well used and abused. The available toys that were being assembled were made with plastics (a new product material), some toys were made with a strange type of stiff cardboard and others were wood.

My brother and I decided that we must hide or get rid of the things we had damaged so Santa would not see how careless and irresponsible we had been. My brother, the organizer, decided how we could hide the damaged toys. On the side yard of the house stood a well-built outhouse. This structure architecturally matched the house and was much nicer than most neighborhood outhouses. The relaxing parlor had three holes sitting area for the convience the individual in need. I never understood why outdoor privies needed two or three holes. I guess it was for the companionship of a visiting guest or just an emergency caller. Anyway, my brother decided that if we threw the damaged toy and play things down through the toilet bench holes, Santa would never see them or know what we had destroyed. (I always wondered, what if Santa needed to relieve himself? Our concealment would have been discovered.) I can't remember how many items we threw down into the abyss, but quite a few.



It wasn't too long after our deceptive coverup of damage items that grandfather noticed we had considerable fewer articles in the toy box. As always, grandfather was direct with his questioning. Grandfather was no one to mess with when he was upset. After a few attempts to deceive him, we could not satisfy his snooping, we confessed. I'm sure the snapping of the razor stroup in his hand had a lot to do with our admission. Not only had our broken toys been plunged into the outhouse slurry, but now the shxx had hit the fan.

We now would get our first fishing lesion without a fishing pole, no water, no fish hook, and no fish. The fish to be re-claimed would smell terrible and require serious cleaning. Grandfather made up a hook from stiff wire and attached it to a long string. Quite similar to ice fishing, but our fishing holes were the heart shaped openings that one rest over. We were instructed to stay in the stinky outhouse and fish out every child's plaything afloat or slightly submerged. As we pulled up the filthy toys, one by one, we took them out and lined them up on the lawn, then had to wash them off with the garden hose. Grandfather supervised and made sure the broken toys were immaculately cleaned to his satisfaction. After several hours, the impeccably clean toys were gathered up and returned to the toy box.

Santa must not have ever known, because on Christmas morning we had many new toys under the tree. We were at that magical age when Christmas is exciting, and eventful. Christmas was a warm and wonderful fantasy time of the year. This was a time when folks made things to give on the holidays. It was common to receive articles crafted by family and friends. My brother and I never lacked presents when Christmas morning arrived. Our grandparents always had beautiful Christmas holidays, they went out of his way to please everyone over the holidays. Grandmother was an excellent cook, baking and preparing foods. Our home was well decorated, a cheerful place and time.

Our mother worked in Denver several miles from Erie. She had an apartment and used a bus service to travel back and forth. We would only see her when she could get away for a weekend. During these years, mother would spend the holidays with us.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**







Instructions: Go to archive.org

Then type **JOHN issue 1** in the search box. Results will show as first find. Click to open

The screenshot shows the Internet Archive website in a Safari browser. The search bar at the top contains 'JOHN issue 1'. Below the search bar, the results are sorted by 'RELEVANCE'. The first result is 'Issue 1 by John A Holley', which is highlighted with an orange arrow. Other results include 'Issue #1 of Esnesnon', 'John Pilger - Palestine Is Still The Issue', 'JAR issue 1', and 'Screen Volume 18 Issue 1'. The left sidebar shows filters for Media Type (collections, texts, audio, movies, concerts, images) and Availability (Always Available, Available to Borrow, Waitlist).

By substitution of the number after issue, you can view all the issues. The catalog currently has 1 through 18, except issue 7, but that is a story for another day!

## ***FRESH FLOWERS***



One ought, every day at least, to hear a little song, read a good poem, see a fine picture, and, if it were possible, to speak a few reasonable words.

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe